

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00561 120106Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----120108Z 016690 /62

O 120009Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2441

S E C R E T OTTAWA 561

NODIS

SECSTATE PASS NSC

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PGEN, CA

SUBJ: TRUDEAU ON QUEBEC AND WASHINGTON VISIT

1. SUMMARY. TRUDEAU IS STILL HESITATING BETWEEN A PASSING REFERENCE TO QUEBEC IN HIS SPEECH TO THE CONGRESS, AND MORE FORTHRIGHT TREATMENT. HE CONFIRMS HE WILL RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT IN PRIVATE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE PUBLIC REFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT TO A "VIGOROUS, STRONG CANADIAN FEDERATION" AS IMPORTANT TO THE U.S.
END SUMMARY.

2. LUNCHEON WITH TRUDEAU AT HIS HOUSE FEBRUARY 11. HIS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR IVAN HEAD AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS UNDER-SECRETARY ROBINSON ALSO PRESENT.

3. TRUDEAU OPENED BY ASKING HOW HE SHOULD HANDLE THE QUEBEC ISSUE IN HIS SPEECH TO CONGRESS. I ANSWERED THAT FAILURES OF TWO RECENT CANADIAN VISITORS TO THE STATES (QUEBEC PREMIER LEVESQUE AND INDUSTRY AND TRADE MINISTER CHRETIEN) MIGHT BE GUIDE. LEVESQUE HAD TRIED TO AROUSE AMERICAN SYMPATHY FOR SEPARATISM, AND HAD RUN INTO A FEDERALIST BACKLASH. CHRETIEN HAD TRIED TO REASSURE AMERICAN AUDIENCES THAT EVERYTHING IS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00561 120106Z

OK, AND INSTEAD HAD CONVINCED THEM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DOESN'T KNOW HOW MUCH TROUBLE IT'S IN. I SUGGESTED THAT TRUDEAU BE FORTHRIGHT ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CHALLENGE, LET AMERICANS KNOW WHAT HE IS DOING TO MAKE FEDERATION WORK (BILINGUALISM, FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL RELATIONS), AS WELL AS PROJECT CONFIDENCE THAT CANADA WILL HOLD TOGETHER.

4. TRUDEAU REPLIED FIRST THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD PUT HIM IN THE POSITION OF RESPONDING TO LEVESQUE, THEN ADMITTED THAT WHETHER HE LIKED IT OR NOT LEVESQUE HAS ALREADY "SET HIM UP". DIFFICULTY, HE SAID, IS TO GET THE RIGHT MIDDLE GROUND. IF YOU TRY TO BE REASSURING AND SAY THAT EVERYTHING WILL COME OUT ALL RIGHT, NO ONE IN CANADA MAKES ANY SACRIFICE. IF YOU CRY ALARM, THE REACTION IS THAT IF THINGS ARE SO BAD WHY NOT SPLIT UP FIRST AND NEGOTIATE AFTERWARDS. MOREOVER THE REACTION OF THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH CONSTITUENCIES WOULD BE VERY DIFFERENT: FORMER IS "ALL VISCERAL", LATTER "CEREBRAL." TRUDEAU SAID THAT HE HAS BEGUN TO DESPAIR OF GETTING THROUGH TO EITHER. FRENCH NATIONALISTS EXALT "BLOOD BROTHERHOOD" OVER ALL ELSE, WEST EXALTS INDIVIDUAL SELF-INTEREST. BUT MAYBE, TRUDEAU CONCLUDED, "THEY WILL HEAR ME WHEN I SPEAK TO THEM FROM WASHINGTON."

5. TRUDEAU CONFIRMED HIS WILLINGNESS TO RAISE THE QUEBEC ISSUE HIMSELF IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE WOULD ALSO WELCOME A STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT IN HIS TOAST REFERRING TO THE IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. OF A "VIGOROUS, STRONG, CANADIAN FEDERATION," BUT AGREED THAT AT THIS STAGE THE WORD "UNITED" SHOULD BE LEFT OUT.

6. AT ONE POINT TRUDEAU SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT WHILE A MEMBER OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY PLANNING STAFF BRZEZINSKI HAD WRITTEN A PAPER PREDICTING THE "INEVITABILITY" OF QUEBEC SEPARATION. IF THAT WERE SO, WHY STRUGGLE OVER IT? MAYBE THE "BLOOD BROTHERHOOD" WAS DESTINED TO TRIUMPH OVER REASON, AND IN THE END "THE U.S. TO GET ITS LAND BRIDGE TO ALASKA."

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 00561 120106Z

7. COMMENT: MEETING, WHICH TRUDEAU SAID HE ARRANGED "TO PICK MY BRAINS," WAS EXCEPTIONALLY CORDIAL. BUT THROUGHOUT TRUDEAU DISPLAYED HIS AMBIVALENCE ABOUT LONG-TERM U.S. INTENTIONS TOWARD CANADA. I REPEATEDLY PREDICTED TO HIM THAT HE WILL FIND AMERICANS TO BE FEDERALISTS IN THEIR VIEW OF CANADA BY BELIEF AS WELL AS BY INTEREST. HE WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE IT BUT SOMEHOW CAN'T FULLY.

10. STRONG STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR A UNITED CANADA SEEMS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT.
ENDERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECESSION, POLITICAL STABILITY, SPEECHES, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PGEN, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA00561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850056-1932, N770001-0504
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770247/aaaabpfs.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: df0d6ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3335015
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRUDEAU ON QUEBEC AND WASHINGTON VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, PINS, PGOV, US, CA, (TRUDEAU, PIERRE-ELLIOT)
To: STATE NSC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/df0d6ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009